

Responsible Forestry Practices: Industry Commitment by the beverage carton sector on wood traceability

Summary of Commitment

Background

Companies representing 80% of the global market for beverage cartons have signed an industry-wide Commitment¹ to achieve 100% traceability of all wood used in their manufacture. On average 75% of beverage cartons is made of paper board from renewable forestry resources. An estimated 2 million tonnes of paperboard is required annually.

Participants

The signatories of this commitment are Tetra Pak, SIG Combibloc, and Elopak. All are members of the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE). The commitment is open for all other companies in the sector to join.

Objectives

- To ensure that all wood used in the manufacture of beverage cartons worldwide can be credibly traced to legal and acceptable sources in its forest of origin.
- To help give practical effect to EU and international forest policy objectives, e.g. the EU's action plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), and so to help combat illegal logging and support sustainable forestry practices.
- To secure the sector's long-term supplies of wood fibres.

Policy Context –notably:

- The priority given to the sustainable use of natural resources in the EU's 2002 Sustainable Development Strategy;
- The emphasis in the EU's Sixth Environment Action Plan on contribution of private sector initiatives to EU policy goals;
- The call in the FLEGT Action Plan for "private sector initiatives based on principles of corporate social responsibility" and, more specifically, for "rigorous voluntary independent audit of the supply chain".

Action Proposed in the Commitment

Beverage Carton Manufacturers commit themselves to the systematic use of legal and acceptable wood fibres. This is to be ensured by using independently certified traceability systems according to standards set by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), or equivalent schemes. 100% chain-of-custody certification for all paperboard purchased shall be reached by 2015 at the latest and 100% certification of their own packaging material manufacturing plants by 2018. Monitoring of compliance with the Commitment will be carried-out by an external verifier contracted by ACE.

¹ Environmental Agreement in the Form of an Industry Self-Commitment concerning Third-Party Verified Traceability Systems for Wood Fibres in Liquid Packaging Board used for the Manufacture of Beverage Cartons

